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Heroes in the Global War on Terror

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Rockville, MD
Silver Star recipient

Army Special Forces Master Sergeant Sarun Sar

Master Sgt. Sar and his 12-man special operations team were sent to search for Taliban fighters in the snowy mountains of eastern Afghanistan on March 5, 2005. As their helicopters attempted to land outside an area suspected of sheltering insurgents, the group began to receive heavy automatic weapons fire from the direction of the village. Sar told his team to follow him as he started running toward the insurgents. Sar was out front alone as his team was temporarily pinned down. He continued to take enemy fire as he waited for his team to catch up to him. When they did, Sar and the team medic went after an insurgent hiding in a hut. As soon as he opened the door, the Taliban fighter fired three shots at Sar; the third shot hit Sar's helmet but did not severely injure him. Sar killed the insurgent. The team continued to sweep the village and cleared the area of enemy fighters and rounded up a large cache of enemy weapons. On January 3, 2006, Sar was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



Hudson, IL
Silver Star recipient

Army Reserve's Specialist Jeremy Church

Spc. Church's 26-vehicle convoy was on an emergency fuel run from Balad to Baghdad International Airport on April 9, 2004, when more than 150 insurgents ambushed their convoy near Abu Ghraib. Church began firing back at the enemies while steering his Humvee through the kill zone. When a Soldier in his Humvee was struck in the head by insurgent fire, Church continued through the attack -- performing first aid as he drove. Even after an improvised explosive device blew out one of the tires, Church continued driving. After delivering the wounded Soldier to medics in a secured perimeter, Church rallied nearby soldiers to get back out into the fight to help the stranded trucks. Church and his newly-banded team members made their way back to help 10 trapped and wounded soldiers and contractors. In February 2005, Church became the first Army Reserve soldier to receive the Silver Star Medal in the Global War on Terror.



Onalaska, WI
Bronze Star recipient

Air Force Senior Airman Adam P. Servais

Senior Airman Servais was in the rocky Uruzgan province in south-central Afghanistan on Aug. 19, 2006, when the convoy he was traveling with came under heavy fire from insurgents. An estimated 100 or more concealed enemies began shooting from three sides. Immediately, Servais turned his Humvee's machine gun toward enemy fire and began shooting. Rounds began exploding near the convoy. Servais turned over responsibility for the machine gun to another team member and began directing close air support to help suppress the insurgents. As he was talking with pilots overhead and spotting targets for them, a rocket-propelled grenade exploded behind Servais, killing him. Servais was a member of a Special Forces operational detachment that was working with Afghan National Army soldiers and Afghan police. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor on Aug. 25, 2006.

For more information on the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, please visit the "[Face of Defense](#)" link on the DoD homepage.

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